Central Share to the State of Karnataka under ISOPOM including Rs. 417.82 lakhs for Oil Plan development during 2005-06.

The details of Central and State Government share released for Oil Palm development during 2005-06 are as under:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Central Share	State Share	Total
2005-06	417.82	139.26	557.08

During 2006-07, an allocation of Rs. 1900.00 lakhs as Central Share including 271.84 lakhs for Oil Palm Development has been made for the State of Karnataka under ISOPOM. An amount of Rs. 950.00 lakhs including Rs. 50.00 lakhs for oil palm development as 1st Installment has been released.

(c) The total amount released to the State of Karnataka as Central Share till today for Oil Palm Development is Rs. 3261.715 lakhs.

Crop Diversification Programme

*508. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a plan has been formulated to improve soil and launch a new crop diversification programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the States where it is proposed to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Agriculture has been promoting diversification from cereal centric cropping systems to high value and low water requiring crops especially oilseeds, pulses, fruits, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, etc. while keeping in view the National Food Security. Balanced and integrated use of nutrients is being promoted under Macro Management Scheme to improve the soil fertility and soil health. The States are encouraged to include Crop Diversification programmes Under Macro Management Scheme taking into consideration the land and water resources. Under Integrated Scheme on Oilseeds, Pulses, Oilpalm and Maize (ISOPOM), the crop diversification is taken up for promotion of oilseeds, pulses and maize in major States since 2004-05. The National

Horticulture Mission has been lanunched during 2005-06 to promote horticultural crops in the country in addition to the Technology Mission for the Integrated Development of Horticulture already in operation since 2001-02 in the North Eastern States including Sikkim and since 2003-04 in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

Backlog vacancies

*509. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2004 in his Ministry and various departments under his Ministry;

(b) whether, special drive was carried out of fill the above backlog vacancies;

(c) if so, the number of vacancies filled during the last two years, department-wise; and

(d) what is the backlog vacancies as on 31st March, 2006?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) The number of backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes (SCs) & Scheduled Tribes (STs) and backlog vacancies (provisional) for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) existing as on 31.3.2004 and 30.6.2004 respectively in recruitment categories (Group-wise) and the backlog vacancies of SCs/STs existing as on 1.7.2004 in promotion categories on Indian Railways was as under:—

Recruitment (As on 31.3.2004)			Recuritment (As on 30.6.2004)	Promotion (As on 1.7.2004)	
Group	SC	ST	OBC	SC	S T
A	Nil	Nil	Nil	18	9
B	Nil	Nil	Nil	124	92
C	1849	2274	3094	10662	10929
D	2191	3467	4028	5276	6506
Total	**4040**	**5741**	**7122**	**16080**	**17536**

(b) Yes, Sir. In pursuance of Govt's Common Minimum Programme, Special Recruitment and Promotion Drive were launched in the year 2004